

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,917,489 (Thurlow). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The invention is directed to a communication apparatus in which plural kinds of communication partner information can be registered for each of multiple communication partners. For example, as shown in Figures 6 and 7, a communication apparatus of the present invention detects identifiers in a received e-mail, and if a predetermined identifier is detected, such as a <name> identifier, an index number is specified in order to permit registration of information corresponding to detected identifiers. Based on the index number, plural kinds of communication partner information can be registered, such as telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Additionally, if a plurality of predetermined identifiers are detected in the same e-mail, the apparatus described in Figures 6 and 7 repeatedly assigns a new index number and registers information which is associated with the same predetermined identifier. Thus, one feature of the invention resides in the ability of a communication apparatus to store plural kinds of communication partner information for each of plural communication partners, even if all such information is received in a single e-mail message.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus having a function of transmitting/receiving e-mail, comprising storage means for storing plural kinds of communication partner information for each of a plurality of communication partners, detecting means for detecting a plurality of identifiers corresponding to the plural kinds of communication partner information from a received

e-mail, specifying means for specifying, when the detecting means detects a predetermined identifier from among the plurality of identifiers, a communication partner information to be registered, and registering means for registering information associated with the identifiers detected by the detecting means, as communication partner information of the specified communication partner information to the storage means, wherein if a plurality of the predetermined identifiers are detected in the received e-mail, the specifying means specifies a communication partner information for each one of the predetermined identifiers and the registering means in turn registers information associated with the identifiers detected by the detecting means.

Independent Claims 7 and 13 are method and program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied reference of Thurlow is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 7 and 13, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of, registering, as communication partner information, information associated with a plurality of predetermined identifiers corresponding to plural kinds of communication partner information from a received e-mail, wherein if a plurality of predetermined identifiers are detected in the received e-mail, communication partner information for each one of the predetermined identifiers is specified and the registered in turn.

Thurlow is merely seen to disclose a system and method for creating and editing rules for processing electronic messages (e.g., e-mail messages). A user can create a rule to be applied to received messages interactively by operating a graphical user interface. An example of how rules can be created is shown with regard to Figs. 6a to 6c and Figs. 7a to 7c. Thus, while a user can create rules for handling incoming e-mail messages, any similarity between Thurlow and the present invention ends there.

Specifically, Thurlow is simply not seen to disclose or to suggest anything with regard to registering, as communication partner information, information associated with a plurality of predetermined identifiers corresponding to plural kinds of communication partner information from a received e-mail, wherein if a plurality of predetermined identifiers are detected in the received e-mail, communication partner information for each one of the predetermined identifiers is specified and the registered in turn.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1 to 14 are not believed to be anticipated by Thurlow.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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